

PETITION TO REVIVE WITH RESPONSE
Atty. Dkt. No. 2003-0104**IN THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of optimizing network routing and load distribution in a virtual private network, comprising:

obtaining from a user device geographical coordinates for a of the user device;

determining an optimal network server for the user device based on the geographical coordinates; and

connecting the user device to the virtual private network through the optimal network server.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining comprises the user device automatically selecting the optimal network server based on the geographical coordinates.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining comprises the user device sending the geographical coordinates to an authentication server for selecting the optimal network server based on the geographical coordinates.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the optimal network server is selected based on proximity to the user device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the optimal network server is selected based on load distribution.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising authenticating the user device before allowing it to be connected to the virtual private network.

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7. (Currently Amended) A user device capable of automatically connecting to an optimal network server in a virtual private network, comprising:

location reporting equipment connected to the user device and configured to provide geographical coordinates for a location of the user device;

a central processing unit of the user device connected to the location reporting equipment; and

a storage unit of the user device connected to the central processing unit, the storage unit storing a virtual private network client thereon that is capable of:

obtaining geographical coordinates for the user device from the location reporting equipment connected to the user device;

determining an optimal network server for the user device based on the geographical coordinates; and

connecting the user device to the virtual private network through the optimal network server.

8. (Original) The user device according to claim 7, wherein the location reporting equipment is a GPS module.

9. (Original) The user device according to claim 7, wherein the virtual private network client determines the optimal network server by selecting it from a list of network servers based on the geographical coordinates.

10. (Original) The user device according to claim 7, further comprising a network access device connected to the central processing unit, the network access device capable of establishing a broadband connection between the user device and the virtual private network.

11. (Original) The user device according to claim 7, further comprising a network access device connected to the central processing unit, the network access device capable of establishing a narrowband connection between the user device and

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the virtual private network.

12. (Currently Amended) A virtual private network, comprising:
a plurality of network servers; and
an authentication server connected to the network servers, the
authentication server having a virtual private network host executing thereon and
configured to:

receive from a user device geographical coordinates for a of the
user device requesting access to the network servers;
determine an optimal network server for the user device based on
the geographical coordinates; and
send identifying information for the optimal network server to the
user device.

13. (Original) The virtual private network according to claim 12, further
comprising a remote access server capable of connecting the user device to the virtual
private network and also to the Internet.

14. (Original) The virtual private network according to claim 12, wherein at
least one of the network servers is a tunnel server.